19970918.ba v01_n679.bam.970918 v01_n680.bam.970918

>From ???@??? Thu Sep 18 09:22:00 1997
Message-Id: <199709180502.AAA06632@sco.theporch.com>
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 00:02:28 CDT
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 1679

BOATANCHORS Digest 1679

Topics covered in this issue include:

1) 866s, valiant
by "Steve Hill" <SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
2) Re: 866s, valiant
by Ken Gordon <keng@uidaho.edu>
3) Re: 866s, valiant
by Ed Tanton <n4xy@bellsouth.net>
4) Mail Problems
by kim herron <kherron@voyager.net>
5) HP-410B
by "Herbert M. Rosenthal" <herbrose@lobo.net>
6) Re: Enclosures - another way to make 'em
by Sandy W5TVW <ebjr@worldnet.att.net>
7) Johnson Valiant questions
by aa1hb@juno.com (Charles M Cheney)
8) BUD Enclosures FS
by Mike Maloney <ac5p@ionet.net>
9) Valiant--Sticking PTT Relay--Cure?--Safety Issues!!
by Bob Login <jlogin@gville.mindspring.com>
10) Heath SB-200 front panel
by k5jv@vonl.com (Lon W. Cottingham)
11) Re: Valiant--Sticking PTT Relay--Cure?--Safety Issues!!
by Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>
12) 75A4 questions
by Ronnie Hull <w5sum@ms1.nwla.com>
13) RE: Valiant
by "Don Buska" <d.buska@AAIATE.COM>
14) HP-410B for sale
by "Joseph W. Pinner" <kc5ijd@sprintmail.com>
15) sprint on boatanchors
by "Larry Johnson" <k5yf@wt.net>
16) Re: WTD: 10 db or 20 db Attenuator
by Glen Galati <eldim@worldnet.att.net>
17) More Valiant 2 problems aaarrrggghhh
by L & M <toneri@ils.net>
18) Auction Results - AWA meet in Rochester, NY
by "John H. Dilks III" <oldradio@worldnet.att.net>
19) TRC-1 R-19H

by Kevin Gallagher <wire2liv@gomontana.com>

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:30:41 +1000
From: "Steve Hill" <SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
To: <boatanchors@sco.theporch.com>
Subject: 866s, valiant
Message-ID: <21350017177679@onaustralia.com.au>

All those people who with to throw away their 866s may send them to the address below.

If not, them use em. There's NOTHING wrong with 866s.

Steve Hill VK4CZT
<SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
39 Banbury St.
Carina. 4152.
Brisbane. Australia.

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 14:45:52 -0700 (PDT)
From: Ken Gordon <keng@uidaho.edu>
To: Steve Hill <SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: 866s, valiant
Message-ID: <Pine.BSF.3.95.970917144447.20035A-100000@piobaire.mines.uidaho.edu>

> All those people who with to throw away their 866s may send them
> to the address below.
>
> If not, then use em. There's NOTHING wrong with 866s.
>

No...except for the hash they generate...and when they arc over and take out components...etc.

3B28s are better.

Ken W7EKB

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 18:17:29 -0400
From: Ed Tanton <n4xy@bellsouth.net>
To: keng@uidaho.edu
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: 866s, valiant
Message-ID: <3.0.1.32.19970917181729.00a40be0@mail.atl.bellsouth.net>

Lost one of the transformers in my HT-9 back in 1963 thanks to my haste in turning on the HV early one morning... made a really neat flash and bang though!!! Don't recall if it (the flash) was also blue...

At 02:45 PM 9/17/97 -0700, Ken Gordon wrote:
>> All those people who with to throw away their 866s may send them
>> to the address below.
>>
>> If not, then use em. There's NOTHING wrong with 866s.
>>
>
>No...except for the hash they generate...and when they arc over and take
>out components...etc.
>
>3B28s are better.
>
>Ken W7EKB
>
>
>
72/73
____
Ed Tanton   N4XY   EMAIL: n4xy@bellsouth.net
189 Pioneer Trail
Marietta, GA 30068-3466   TEL: (770)579-3933 V/MBX/FAX
____
QRP-ARCI #7663   G-QRP #6779   OK-QRP #172   QRP-L #758
AdvRC #140   NORCAL #1779   NCDXF   SEDXC

Life Member: ARRL   AMSAT   INDEXA   QCWA

INTERESTS: DX   QRP   BoatAnchors Test Equipment Photography
CW: 99.9%   QRP: 95-100% (Mood swings!)   Mercury Paddle #0214
~~~~~~
"Think you can, think you can't: either way you're right!"   Henry Ford
~~~~~~

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 18:49:22 -0400 (EDT)

From: kim herron <kherron@voyager.net>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Cc: kherron@voyager.net
Subject: Mail Problems
Message-ID: <199709172249.SAA26878@vixa.voyager.net>

Hi Gang,

Short note (please excuse Jack): HELP!! someone set my mail to postpone and I can't seem to get it set back. Some direct help would be appreciated. BTW, my server also apppears to be having a bit of difficulty. Maybe that's it. Don't bother to post a reply to the whole group, because I won't see it.

Thanks a bunch in advance,

Kim Herron
kherron@voyager.net or kherron@vixa.voyager.net

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 16:54:20 -0600
From: "Herbert M. Rosenthal" <herbrose@lobo.net>
To: BoatAnchors <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: HP-410B
Message-ID: <34205F9B.3ADF@lobo.net>

Looking for a back cover for a HP-410B multimeter..have a unit that's a 9+ except for the missing cover. Direct contact, please, to me. Thanks
Herb Rosenthal W5AN
herbrose@lobo.net

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 22:53:57 +0000
From: Sandy W5TVW <ebjr@worldnet.att.net>
To: n2bc@ibm.net, boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Re: Enclosures - another way to make 'em
Message-ID: <19970917225356.AAA10929@LOCALNAME>

At 08:05 PM 9/17/97 +0000, you wrote:
>Another approach to Ben Hall's info:
>

>First, galvanized metal sheet is readily available at your local plumbing &
>heating shop - cheap too.

Other methods I've used over the years is:

1.) Double sided G-10 epoxy fibreglass printed circuit board stock. Especially 3/32" thick stock. It is fairly easy to cut and punch. Can be soldered together to form a chassis with any number of shields desired! It is very good at RF frequencies too. If you don't like the "color", it's easy to paint! You can sometimes pack up odds and ends of this very cheap at hamfests and "scrap" from PC board makers.

2.) Tempered masonite. It is a fairly good insulator, is easy to cutand shape, and is cheap. Makes really nice front panels. If shielding is required, this can be had with spray-on 'contact cement' and aluminium foil applied to the inside surface. I have, in the past, built 'relay racks' from wood strips and masonite, using aluminium foil for "shielding" material. That was YEARS ago when I was in high school and had a slim budget! Today, it is almost an essential, as rack panels and cabinet prices have gotten astronomical!

73,
E. V. Sandy Blaize, W5TVW
"Boat Anchors collected, restored, repaired, traded and used!"
417 Ridgewood Drive,
Metairie, LA., 70001
ebjr@worldnet.att.net
Looking for: Hallicrafters SR-75 Transceiver
RK-34(VT-224) tubes, Butternut HF2V antenna*

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 19:04:31 EDT
From: aa1hb@juno.com (Charles M Cheney)
To: boatanchors@sco.thePorch.com
Subject: Johnson Valiant questions
Message-ID: <19970917.190124.8063.1.aa1hb@juno.com>

Recently Mike wrote
>1. Do 866's need to be 'matched'?
> I've got one that glows bright blue and three that are dim. I'm using
> a pair of 3B28's as substitutes for now, but am curious.

The early handbooks warn about the fragility of mercury vapor rectifiers relative to HV rectifiers, and the failure mechanism they describe is loss of cathode emission. I would assume that the intensity of the glow is directly related to the current flowing in the tube; little or no glow = little or no current. In the old HB xmtr I am working on, one of the 816s (baby 866) glows brightly and the other one hardly at all, and unsurprisingly I am only getting about half the expected B+ from my should-be full wave but actually half-wave rectifier. (Yes, the transformer seems to be OK).

Anyone have any 816s for sale?

Charlie AA1HB (aa1hb@juno.com)

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 18:07:01 -0500 (CDT)
From: Mike Maloney <ac5p@ionet.net>
To: baswaplist@foothill.net
Cc: ac5p@ionet.net, boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: BUD Enclosures FS
Message-ID: <199709172307.SAA09104@mail.ionet.net>

Have two each BUD cabinets in Black Wrinkle outer dems 16-1/2" by 8" X 8" with rounded front to sides. Takes front panel 14" X 7-3/8" (not included). Top is flat with recessed hinged lid 13-1/2 X 5". Will accept chassis up to 13" wide and 8" deep. Subjects are steel construction and spotwelded. Subjects were stored in attic for Lord only knows how long, are dirty but appear to be unused. With a little soap and water they should clean up real nice. Asking $20 each + U-ship.

73 de Mike   ac5p@ionet.net
Bartlesville, OK

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 19:17:50 -0400
From: Bob Login <jlogin@gville.mindspring.com>
To: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Valiant--Sticking PTT Relay--Cure?--Safety Issues!!
Message-ID: <199709172330.TAA12357@brickbat9.mindspring.com>

Dear Fellow Valiant Owners & BA's
Two safety issues--My PTT relay sticks and over-rides the power switch & manual switch(SW7&8!!!)
You have to pull the plug out of the AC! to turn it off! Looking at the schematic its not clear to me
how this results when u would think the designers at Johnson would have forseen such a potentially
dangerous situation??? The other is the voltage across the key--over 200volts! watch out! Possibly
my Valiant was modified--at least some of the caps were upgraded.. Would apprecite any comments.

As far as sticking PTT relay is concerned--. Measured voltage on coil after

it sticks
and its zero! Tried to clean contacts even used emery paper to clean. Just mechanically
pushing the relay in doesn't result in sticking only when its activated by ptt! When it sticks u
can turn off power and watch the stuck relay--I tried grounding the coil winding and no effect.
tried grounding filter caps thinking there's DC in them --no effect. What could be holding it in???

Would appreciate ur comments---Tnx & 73's Bob AA8A

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 18:45:32 -0500
From: k5jv@vonl.com (Lon W. Cottingham)
To: boatanchors@theporch.com, BASWAPLIST <baswaplist@foothill.net>
Subject: Heath SB-200 front panel
Message-ID: <34206B9C.3E52@vonl.com>

Greetings to all,

I as still in urgent need of an acceptable front panel for an SB-200. I have posted this previously and will probabily get hate mail for doing so again, but I really do need the panel to get this job off of my work bench. The other postings produced an SB-220 front panel with meters and an offer for an SB-200 panel but no folow up. I will trade or pay cash.
--

73 de Lon, K5JV

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 18:59:08 -0500 (CDT)
From: Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>
To: Bob Login <jlogin@gville.mindspring.com>
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Valiant--Sticking PTT Relay--Cure?--Safety Issues!!
Message-ID: <Pine.ULT.3.96.970917185425.11993B-100000@admin.aurora.edu>

On Wed, 17 Sep 1997, Bob Login wrote:

> Two safety issues--My PTT relay sticks and over-rides the power switch &
> manual switch(SW7&8!!!). You have to pull the plug out of the AC! to

> turn it off!
>
> As far as sticking PTT relay is concerned--. Measured voltage on coil after
> it sticks and its zero! Tried to clean contacts even used emery paper to
> clean. Just mechanically pushing the relay in doesn't result in sticking
> only when its activated by ptt!

One cause of a sticking relay can be that the armature is actually
touching the pole piece, which may be slightly permanently magnetized.
Perhaps the two should not touch but there should be a small gap
in between. If nothing else, try slipping a piece of tape on top
of the pole piece.

E-mail broehrig@admin.aurora.edu   73 de Bob, K9EUI
CIS: Data / Telecom   Aurora University, Aurora, IL
630-844-4898 Fax 630-844-5530

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 17:45:56 -0500
From: Ronnie Hull <w5sum@ms1.nwla.com>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: 75A4 questions
Message-ID: <1.5.4.16.19970917174915.1907d866@ms1.nwla.com>

I have notices one odd thing about my A4 since I got it
back. When you place the AVC switch in the "fast" position
the S-meter pegs "negative" and stays there. Is this normal?
Also, in this position, there appears to be just a bit of
distortion.

any ideas fella's?

Ronnie
======================================
W5SUM
Ronnie Hull
3131 Meadow Parkway dr.
Shreveport, La 71108

"Use and Enjoy 10 Meters"
Ten-Ten #2019
formerly WN5AIA - WB5AIA

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Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 14:19:04 -0500
From: "Don Buska" <d.buska@AAIATE.COM>
To: "m_warren@compuserve.com" <m_warren@compuserve.com>
Cc: "boatanchors@sco.theporch.com" <boatanchors@sco.theporch.com>
Subject: RE: Valiant
Message-ID: <97Sep17.192600cdt.33158@gateway.aaiate.com>

Mike, I see you've already gotten a few responses, so here is my two cents:

1. Keep the 3B28 installed. The 866's have a tendancy to arc over and can take transformers etc. along with them when they arc. I am using 3B28's in my Valiant.

2. Someone already said that the shunts can be out of value. They are very low resistance and any poor solder joints could also add to the problem. I am running mine with the spec'd 8mA so I haven't had the problem.

3. Like everyone else, yes get the back issues. In fact get them all as it is the best ham magazine around, BA or otherwise. I have done the audio mods to mine and am very pleased with the results. Plus, some of these mods are designed to save shorted life span on audio and modulation transformers.

4. I don't use the clipping. In fact I have bypassed the circuit completely. However, this is your own choice. Leave it in and see how things work for you. I use both the no-amplified D-104 (Crystal) and a Electro-voice Cardax (Crystal) microphones on mine. I prefer the Cardax which is on a boom stand and provides that "broadcast" look, hi. Either mic and the audio mods get the Valiant as close to BC quality as it is capable of getting. I always get great compliments on my audio.

5. Like others have said there are many replacements around that can be cut, filed and trimmed to make good looking replacements. My Valiant had all the little white pointers so as of yet I have not had to make replacements.

6. You bet! This is a great transmitter and for those of us without room, time or money for the tall rack AM BC type transmitters this is a great rig. Probably the best for power to size ratio as well. Plus, 6146's are a dime a dozen. How could you go wrong.

Have fun es 73

Don N9OO

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 97 21:15:06 -0500
From: "Joseph W. Pinner" <kc5ijd@sprintmail.com>
To: "Boatanchor 1" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: HP-410B for sale
Message-ID: <199709180210.TAA02637@mailgate31>

Since a very kind member of this list (David M Sundheimer) has provided me with the one part I needed to restore a HP-410C, I now have an HP-410B which I no longer need.

It is in good condition and has been in use on my bench up to this point. RF probe seem to work just fine, too.

$ 50 plus shipping.

Joseph W Pinner
Lafayette, LA
KC5IJD
EMail: kc5ijd@sprintmail.com (NEW PLEASE USE)

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 02:51:25 +0100
From: "Larry Johnson" <k5yf@wt.net>
To: "boatanchors" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: sprint on boatanchors
Message-ID: <199709180246.VAA26753@pan.wt.net>

Well, I couldn't resist. Was bringing up a National 303, Hallicrafters HT-37 and HT-41 for the first time this weekend, decided to see how things were getting out, and chose to work a couple of qso's in the sprint phone test.
Actually handed out 4, two where I returned a cq and two where I then had the freq. Took me several minutes to get a rythm down of zero-beating someone fast that was calling cq. Obviously I was getting out, worked a K4, N9,
W6, and WA7. Don't know if they had any problems hearing me but don't think so...Hmm...I must be a masochist, but maybe I'll work the next sprint on boatanchors....

just imagine if i were to win sprint using a national/hallicrafters setup.

Larry Johnson
Internet: k5yf@wt.net
Houston, TX

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 03:01:56 +0000
From: Glen Galati <eldim@worldnet.att.net>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Re: WTD: 10 db or 20 db Attenuator
Message-ID: <19970918030154.AAA13075@GLENGALA>

At 03:53 PM 9/17/97 +0000, you wrote:
> Looking for a 20 db Attenuator to hang on output of Signal
> Generator, BNC connectors preferred, useable down to HF
> region. Will take 10 db if 20 not available. Anyone have
> one they will part with ??
>
> Tnx, Dick, W1KSZ
>Hello Dick,

I have two types of 20db Attenuators.
One is new and one is used.   Both are 50 ohm.

1. Model 18N-20 rating is DC to 18 Ghz. power rating is
   5 watts avg. Type 'N' conn.
   VSWR is 1:1.5 from DC to 4 Ghz.
   2ea.new available @ $24.ea
   (Mfr. price $53.ea.)
2. PN:CN-316/URM-26B BNC females input and output.
   1ea.used available @ $10.ea

Thanks,73, Glen KA7BOJ eldim@worldnet.att.net

P.S. We invite you to check out our web site.
http://www.el-dim.com

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 23:14:44 -0500 (GMT-0500)
From: L & M <toneri@ils.net>

To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: More Valiant 2 problems aaarrrggghhh
Message-ID: <199709180414.XAA19541@server1.ils.net>

Today I decided to have another go at the Valiant 2, the one that has no grid drive only on 80 metres sometimes and a modulation current reading off the end of the scale. That what it was doing the last time I had it on the air in February. Now the darn low voltage 5Y4 rectifier decided to glow a nice red colour. I thought it was the filter caps when the ohmmeter showed a dead short to ground. Not so. Somewhere in the beast is something shorting the low voltage B+ to ground and nothing is obviously burned or exploded under the chassis. I can tell that this is going to be a fun time in workshop this time around.
I noticed that there are a number of .001 tubular bypass capacitors in the rig. Should I replace these with new disc ceramic capacitors? If I didn't like the Valiant 2 so much I would have scrapped it and sold the parts but when it is working, it is so nice, and frequency stable too.
73...Mike VE3FGU
****
Mike & Lynda Toneri   E-mail: toneri@ils.net
Keswick, Ontario
WEBPAGE: http://www.geocities.com/heartland/meadows/8218
****

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 03:12:10 +0000
From: "John H. Dilks III" <oldradio@worldnet.att.net>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Auction Results - AWA meet in Rochester, NY
Message-ID: <19970918031208.AAA15340@LOCALNAME>

Exclusive Report! With Photos!

The 1997 Auction Results - AWA meet in Rochester, NY
by Ludwell Sibley, KB2EVN

Now on the New Jersey Antique Radio Club Page, K2TQN Webmaster

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.=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=.
|                    http://www.eht.com/oldradio                      |
|  Exclusive Report! 1997 AWA meet in Rochester -- Auction Results.  |
|                Updated September 17, 1997 - Please visit.           |
`=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-=-='
```

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 21:36:36 -0600
From: Kevin Gallagher <wire2liv@gomontana.com>
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: TRC-1 R-19H
Message-ID: <3420A1C4.4586@gomontana.com>

Gentlemen of the list: I am trying to revive a R-19H (Hallicrafters military) single chanel receiver. I would like to use this radio for local FM broadcast signal reception. What I need to know is whether the crystal one would need to receive the local stations would be the stations frequency or a fraction thereof. Any help on this question would be greatly appreciated! Could also use a manual or schematic of this radio if one were available. Thanks, Kevin

----

End of BOATANCHORS Digest 1679
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>From ???@??? Fri Sep 19 02:50:55 1997
Message-Id: <199709181828.NAA24771@sco.theporch.com>
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 13:27:55 CDT
Subject: BOATANCHORS digest 1680

BOATANCHORS Digest 1680

Topics covered in this issue include:

1) Drake 2-A Problems
   by Tom Taylor <ttaylor@Adobe.COM>
2) 866 and 816 mercury rectifiers
   by "Thomas A. Adams" <103360.2133@compuserve.com>
3) NATIONAL RECEIVER: NEED INFO
   by arc5@ix.netcom.com
4) RHZ RECEIVER: NEED INFO
   by arc5@ix.netcom.com
5) RBM ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE
   by arc5@ix.netcom.com
6) Unmodified "ARC-5" RXs Available.
   by arc5@ix.netcom.com
7) Re: 866 and 816 mercury rectifiers
   by "Steve Hill" <SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
8) Eldico Help?
   by K1HC@aol.com
9) Misc. for sale
   by J P Taillebois <jpt1@idirect.com>

10) Colline reflector....
by Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>
11) REVIEW: COLLINS 75S-3/32S-3 VIDEO, HI-RES COMMUNICATIONS
by Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>
12) 866 rectifiers/ R390
by laffitte@prtc.net (laffitte)
13) Re: More Valiant 2 problems aaarrrggghhh
by Jim Garland W8ZR <4CX250B@miavx1.acs.muohio.edu>
14) Question: Collins 75S-3B
by "JOSE V.GAVILA (EB5AGV/EC5AAU)" <eb5agv@ctv.es>
15) Best BA RX is under the table
by MNHopkins@aol.com
16) Re: Best BA RX is under the table
by bdhall@ghg.net (Benjamin D. Hall)
17) Re: Best BA RX is under the table
by Randy Zelick <h2rz@odin.cc.pdx.edu>
18) GC-1 info needed
by Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>
19) Re: 866 rectifiers/ R390
by bill@skeeter.frco.com (William Hawkins)
20) HQ-170
by Dave Wood <W4EJ@coastalnet.com>
21) Re: RAS-5 / HRO 4 Navy SWL-ing
by polepeeg@aa4rm.radio.org (Marty Reynolds' BA ID)
22) Xtals wanted
by w2ec@vnet.IBM.COM
23) Heathkit part needed- Help!
by W0AH@aol.com
24) Re: BOATANCHORS digest 1677
by Jderm740@aol.com
25) Homemade Enclosures
by jkh@lexis-nexis.com (John Heck)

Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 22:49:16 -0700
From: Tom Taylor <ttaylor@Adobe.COM>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Drake 2-A Problems
Message-ID: <v03007801b0466726bb0a@[144.7.22.45]>

A few weeks ago I mentioned that I bought a "high mileage" Drake 2-A at a hamfest for a good price. Like many radios in similar condition, the power cord had been snipped off. For some reason, frustrated hams must like snipping the power cord off a cantankerous radio. I replaced the cord and a few random tubes. At that point, the radio worked great on 80 on 40. On 20 meters and up, however, the radio wouldn't receive anything. It didn't take long to figure out that the crystal oscillator wasn't oscillating on those other bands.

Luckily for me, I have another 2-A. I swapped crystals between the two radios. The good radio continued to work, the bad radio still did not work. Regarding the crystal oscillator, the manual says, "For higher frequencies where overtone crystals must be used, the band switch inserts an appropriate coil resonating the circuit on the crystal overtone frequency and the crystal is switched between cathode and a low impedance point of the tuned circuit." It turns out that the bands 20-15-10 all rely on this different mode of the crystal osciallator.

My next step was to check the voltages around the 6U8 crystal oscillator. There was an immediate suspect. The grid of the tube (of the section of the tube used as an oscillator) was supposed to be -.1 v, but it was +.32 v. Checking other voltages, I found that many of them seemed low. Going directly back to the main filter cap, I found that I had 130vdc where I should have had 152vdc. The good radio showed 150vdc at this point. Hey, I told myself, this has got to be something simple. Measuring the AC high voltage at the power transformer, I measured the specified 149vac on both radios. I figured I'd solve the low B+ problem before tackling the oscillator problem. After all, I said to myself, they might be related.

The next thing I did was make a complete resistance check against the manual's resistance table for both radios. The measured values on both radios were approximately equal and within reason of the chart. There were no values that were wildly off.

I removed all the tubes from both radios except for the 6X4 rectifier. Measuring the B+ on both radios yielded the same 170vdc. Plugging all the tubes back in the bad radio, the voltage dropped back down to 130v. Plugging all the tubes back in the good radio, the voltage dropped to the specified 150vdc.

Getting desparate and trying to eliminate a bad tube that my tube tester might have missed, I tried swapping all the tubes between the good radio and the bad radio. The bad radio was still bad and the good radio was still good.

I've made many resistance and capacitance checks between the two radios. The values are nearly equal. I'm kind of stuck at this point and need a few ideas to break the log jam. What could be loading the B+ resulting in such low B+ voltage?

Tom, N7TM

Tom Taylor
ttaylor@adobe.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 04:22:53 -0400
From: "Thomas A. Adams" <103360.2133@compuserve.com>
To: "INTERNET:boatanchors@theporch.com" <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: 866 and 816 mercury rectifiers
Message-ID: <199709180424_MC2-20EC-9BF7@compuserve.com>

Greetings.

Lemme add my two cents worth to the mercury rectifier horror stories.

The failure mode I've seen most often on mercs (and I've seen plenty of 'em go this way) runs like this;

Some sort of coating forms on the tube anode (possibly an oxide of mercury from the residual gas in the envelope? Barry, help me out on this one if you can!). As the tube gets used more, the coating eventually splits in a few places, and begins to peel away from the anode, like house paint exposed to the weather. Eventually, one of these flakes of crud bridges the anode to the filiment shield, and bingo, you've got a shorted merc.

Possibly it's the heating and cooling cycles that cause this effect; I've never had one short out while in use. The shorted tubes ALWAYS show up in my rigs when the rig is first fired up.

866As are bad enough on this, but 816s seem to be the absolute pits!!!

Also, you haven't lived until you've tried to fire up a mercury rectified rig in a poorly heated / insulated shack during a Wisconsin winter! When the rig is turned off for the night, the vaporized mercury condenses on the cold glass between plate and cathode shield, and when you hit the plate voltage next time, BANG! It's backfire time! Half the time, the backfire is so violent that it shakes loose the flakes of crud on the plate, and you wind up with failure mode #1, previously described.

I had to occasionally deal with an old FM broadcast rig that had this problem. And THAT beast had a 3 phase supply full of big, ugly 872As! SIX of the foot high monsters, behind a glass plate viewing window! It was quite a light show.

We got a little relief by installing 150 watt light bulbs inside the rectifier compartment, and running them continuously, even while the rig was off the air, in order to keep the envelope temperature a bit higher.

Anyway, I finally got so tired of the 816s in my Globe King modulator going bad that I modified the sockets (lowered them into the chassis on spacers) and replaced the plate caps to allow installation of a pair of 3B25 xenon rectifiers that I had around. These are lower current versions of 3B28s, and I've got a TON of 'em that were thrown out at work; the FM broadcast rigs are now almost all solid state, except for a few REAL old timers that no one's bothered to change over to solid state yet (at least one transmitter site has about 50 or 60 military surplus 872As in a storage cabinet, circa World War Two).

The PA plate supply rectifiers got replaced with plug-in solid state replacements.

Apparently, rectifier failure was a biggie in the BC-610; so much so that the late models came with 3B28s as standard factory equipment instead of the merc tubes.

I was replacing the 816s about once every 6 months. I modified the rig in self defense; I ran out of 816s, and today they cost like the National debt.

So far, I've gotten about 3 years out of the first pair of 3B25s. As usual, YMMV.

I just love to watch the flashing of mercury tubes in a homebrew rig as you key it, but mercury rectifiers are a colossal pain in the butt! Silicon isn't as pretty, but it's a LOT more practical!

73's,

Tom, K9TA

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 03:50:10 -0500 (CDT)
From: arc5@ix.netcom.com
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: NATIONAL RECEIVER: NEED INFO
Message-ID: <199791834940541@>

Recently acquired an RCE National in pretty good shape.
Rack mount, all covers.
Tag says it was built for the Commerce Department
Aeronautics branch.
Would appreciate any information since
I know almost nothing of this rig.

TNX ES 73 DE Dave Stinson AB5S
arc5@ix.netcom.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 03:53:23 -0500 (CDT)
From: arc5@ix.netcom.com
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: RHZ RECEIVER: NEED INFO
Message-ID: <19979183525556334@>

Need info on recently acquired airport tower fixed-frequency receivers type RHZ. Any information concerning era, service, etc. would be helpful.

TNX ES 73 DE Dave Stinson AB5S
arc5@ix.netcom.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 03:56:59 -0500 (CDT)
From: arc5@ix.netcom.com
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: RBM ACCESSORIES AVAILABLE
Message-ID: <199791835546519169@>

Remote control box and external
power supply for receiver RBM available.
Not checked but externally look good.
Please email if interested.

73 DE Dave Stinson AB5S
arc5@ix.netcom.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 04:05:01 -0500 (CDT)
From: arc5@ix.netcom.com
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: Unmodified "ARC-5" RXs Available.
Message-ID: <19979184417511478@>

Several BC-453 "Q-5ers"
good/excellent condition
(per recently posted rating guide)
available at a very reasonable price.

Unmodified, *with DM-32 dynamotors* included.

$25 plus shipping from 78728.

73 DE Dave Stinson AB5S
arc5@ix.netcom.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 19:23:33 +1000
From: "Steve Hill" <SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
To: <boatanchors@sco.theporch.com>
Subject: Re: 866 and 816 mercury rectifiers
Message-ID: <09271328119934@onaustralia.com.au>

Thomas A. Adams said:

> Eventually, one of these flakes of crud bridges the
> anode to the filiment shield, and bingo, you've got a shorted merc.

I've been lucky enough not to have this happen, wonder if different brands
arc over more than others

> Also, you haven't lived until you've tried to fire up a mercury rectified
> rig in a poorly heated / insulated shack during a Wisconsin winter! When
> the rig is turned off for the night, the vaporized mercury condenses on the
> cold glass between plate and cathode shield, and when you hit the plate
> voltage next time, BANG! It's backfire time! Half the time, the backfire is
> so violent that it shakes loose the flakes of crud on the plate, and you
> wind up with failure mode #1, previously described.

Yes, they like to be warmed up. The 866 powered rig I use is an AWA AT13C
500W CW transmitter. It is over 50yrs old, six ft high and 1000lb. Ex Royal
Australian Air Force WW2 ground station. It uses six 866s. The manual is
very specific about warming the beasts up. We run the rig for half an hour
before turning on the HT. Thus we have never had any probs.

> I just love to watch the flashing of mercury tubes in a homebrew rig as
you
> key it, but mercury rectifiers are a colossal pain in the butt! Silicon
> isn't as pretty, but it's a LOT more practical!

Sure, Silicon is the way of today, but if we wanted to be practical our
shacks would be full of Rice boxes. (Kenwoods, Yaesus etc...)
Boatanchors and practicality generally don't go together.

Sure, a 3B28 probably is better, but I just think that a vintage rig should
be used the way it was meant to be used, as designed by the manufacturer.
Doesn't always work like that, but I like to do so where possible.

Cheers

Steve Hill   VK4CZT
<SHILL@onaustralia.com.au>
39 Banbury St.
Carina. 4152.
Brisbane. Australia.

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 06:29:37 -0400 (EDT)
From: K1HC@aol.com
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Eldico Help?
Message-ID: <970918062936_-1063029419@emout04.mail.aol.com>

I picked up a piece of Eldico equipment as part of an estate sale, and I'd
like some help. It has a SWR/power meter and phone patch and two toggle
switches on the front labeled transmitter and receiver on/off. Appears to be
a station console. Am I right? The wattmeter works fine. Any guesses
(offers?) on its value? Thanks!
73,
Dick, K1HC

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:28:32 -0400
From: J P Taillebois <jpt1@idirect.com>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Misc. for sale
Message-ID: <199709181128.HAA10486@nexus.idirect.com>

Hi Gang,

I have for sale the following items:

1- Collins rcvr 75S-1 very clean 9 to a 10 cosmetics working great no cw filter
W/E no manual no mods just dust inside. Looks like the radio was hardly
used.

2- 2 WWII MAB transceivers Freq: 3725 mhz one unit is complete Canvas bag,
mic earphone antenna. Other unit as above but missing earphone but has a
spare ant.

3- 2 R-109 rcvrs one is original (no mods) 5-6 cosmetically the other is 8
and has a built in a/c ps comes with manual.

4- 1 32S-1 Collins manual.

Make offers has i am not sure of the value.

Thank you
Jean Paul Taillebois 996 Greenlane court, Oshawa, Ontario,Canada L1K-2C6
e.mail jpt1@idirect.com
packet: ve3jpt@va3vw
voice:905-723-1811
fax/data:905 723-9156
Collector: Hallicrafters,Central-Electronic,Gonset, Military BA, antique
radio memorabilia.

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:36:30 -0400 (EDT)
From: Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Colline reflector....
Message-ID: <199709181136.HAA14571@northshore.shore.net>

Hello Everyone:

I have had several messages thanking me for reposting Chuck WA4HHG's
excellent article from the Collins Reflector and asking for info
on how to subscribe.

So here you have it:

listserv@listserv@tempe.gov

subscribe collins

You do not have to be a Collins Collectors Association member to subscribe or participate in the list discussion. However if you are into Collins amateur equipment the C.C.A. is a pretty good group of like-minded people. The list is obviously focused on Collins amateur radio products and so any postings should have some relevance to this broad subject. Since the R-390 and R-390A were both designed by Collins Radio they are perfectly acceptable subjects even if the model(s) under discussion were made by another contractor.

Enjoy!

73,

Michael, W1RC
mc@shore.net

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:40:51 -0400 (EDT)
From: Michael Crestohl <mc@shore.net>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: REVIEW: COLLINS 75S-3/32S-3 VIDEO, HI-RES COMMUNICATIONS
Message-ID: <199709181140.HAA15286@northshore.shore.net>

Hello Everyone:

Thought you might find this review I wrote interesting:

REVIEW: COLLINS 75S-3/32S-3 VIDEO, Hi-Res Communications, Floyd Soo W8RO

Collins S-Line radio owners can now learn how to correctly operate, maintain, modify and service their equipment thanks to a 3 - 1/2 hour videotape produced by Hi-Res Communications. Collins "guru" Dennis Brothers, WA0CBK and Floyd Soo, W8RO, have teamed up to make this two-tape series that shows how to perform many procedures to these popular radios to keep them operating up to original specifications for many years to come.

Dennis shows us some basic and relatively simple things like how to interconnect the cables between the receiver and transmitter, how to synchronize the VFOs and even how to remove the 32S-3 from its cabinet without scratching the trim ring. Furthermore, Dennis shows us how to perform all these "peaks and tweaks" without a bench full of test equipment or a lot of tools. The only special tools that you'll need is a Bristol (splined) wrench and a swamping tool you can easily make.

Some of the receiver modifications include improvements to the AGC, calibrator, V4-T4, VFO output, tunable BFO, Q-multiplier gain increase, S-Meter stabilization and more. 32S-3 modifications to are extensively covered that improve circuitry such as VOX, PA screen, mic gain and others.

In addition receiver alignment is detailed including the 455 KHz IF, filters, bandpass IF tuning, RF alignment, as well as adjustments to the tunable BFO, IF gain, crystal calibrator, sideband frequency shift, and rejection tuning. Dennis also shows us how to calibrate the VFO, adjust the slug rack, set the end point spread and do a dial alignment.

In addition to the mods mentioned above, the 32S-3 transmitter portion of the video covers alignment and neutralization which includes VFO and RF stage alignments and adjustments to the carrier balance and first mixers circuits. Finally Dennis shows how to neutralize the power amplifier and driver tube circuits which is probably the most misunderstood aspect of working on these radios.

The videos cover the 75S-3 receiver and the 32S-3 transmitter. The other S-Line radios, 75S-1/32S-1 and 75S-3B/C are of course somewhat different but generally the lessons that are taught by Dennis are applicable to all S-line radios. I asked Floyd Soo about this and he replied that when asked, Dennis estimated that 80% or more is usable for the 75S-1 and 75S-3B/C models. It seems that the choice of the 75S-3 was a wise one given that it falls between the S-1 and S-3B/C in the production run and will have as much validity to all models as would be possible without making a longer video or three separate versions.   Included is a printed sheet that tells where a given procedure is found listed by elapsed time which makes finding a segment of particular interest relatively simple.

In addition to the video under review, Hi-Res produces several other instructional videos that deal with the KWM-2 transceiver, 30L-1 and 30S-1 amplifiers, their newest videos covering the 75A-4/KWS-1 "Gold-Dust Twins" and a seven hour treatise on the R-390A. I hope to review these videos in the future.

I found the video production quite well done with clear pictures of the equipment and components being changed, adjusted, etc. This is certainly adequate for instructional purposes and there is a lot to be learned from viewing these tapes in conjunction with the schematic and manual. Dennis Brothers certainly knows his stuff having worked at Collins Radio Company for many years on this very equipment. His company, Western Nebraska Electronics is still recommended by Collins/Rockwell, so his credentials to demonstrate and narrate such a video are impressive. Production work is professional but not "slick" which it doesn't have to be seeing its an instructional tape and not an entertainment product.

%T   COLLINS 75S-3/32S-3 VIDEO
%A   Dennis Brothers with Floyd Soo, W8RO
%I   Hi-Res Communications, 8232 Woodview Drive, Clarkston MI 48348-4058
%C   (248) 391-6660 (phone or fax)
%D   e-mail: hires@rust.net
%O   http://www.rust.net/~hires
%G $74.95 + $4.50 S&H

Available from Hi-Res Communications and the ELECTRIC RADIO Bookstore

(C) 1997
Michael Crestohl
Cambridge Vermont, USA
mc@shore.net

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:43:52 -0300
From: laffitte@prtc.net (laffitte)
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: 866 rectifiers/ R390
Message-ID: <342105E8.282A@prtc.net>

Hi Gang!

I was a victim of the 866s. The power transformer of my old Viking was destroyed by arcing in one of these little monsters and I will never forget it. The culprit still sits in my schack on a bayonet base as a reminder and four more are in solitary confinement in the junkbox.

On a happier note, I carried out the Chuck Rippel/Michael Creshtol forwarded and recommended IF GAIN adjustment in the R390A and it came out very well. The gain was set a bit too high. Also found the sensitivity lower than expected by doing the 4.5MC test without the antenna.Since I knew that the RF section had been aligned, all that remained was the crystal oscillator trimmers which I thought were ok. Well, the former owner apparently tinkered with them. They were way out of alignment. After readjusting them I could peak the noise at 4.5 with no antenna connected. I will carry the 19 meter band recommended sensitivity test today.

And now a question. Has anyone worked with the R390(no A)? I need a couple of pointers on this one regarding rf noise that wont come down.

The IF GAIN adjusment does not make a difference and the audio section seems ok. My main suspect is the IF subunit but I made a resistance check and everything came out pretty well. Nonetheless it still remains my suspect. Either that or this model is noisier than the 390A which I doubt. By the way and as a reminder, I am still collecting information on the most common component and tube failures for both receivers 390/390A. The list has grown but I am sure there is more information in the combined wisdom of this list.

TNX and best 73s
Guido E Santacana
BA collector in the tropics
San Juan, Puerto Rico

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:52:24 -0400
From: Jim Garland W8ZR <4CX250B@miavx1.acs.muohio.edu>
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Re: More Valiant 2 problems aaarrrggghhh
Message-ID: <v03007804b046c4d6a3bc@[134.53.65.12]>

Hi Mike,

Don't give up on the Valiant, yet! You'll get it working. The circuit is very straightforward and not difficult to trouble-shoot.

I wouldn't replace the.001 caps. It's highly unlikely they are bad, in my experience.

Re the short in the LV supply, I'd begin trouble-shooting by pulling out all the tubes and checking the resistance to ground. With any luck, you might only have a shorted tube.

The modulator current problem is most likely inadequate bias voltage on the modulator tubes.There's a pot on the side for adjusting it; check to make sure it's not open. Also, check the resistance of the various power resistors in the rig, to make sure one hasn't opened up.

If you're only getting grid current on some bands, check the bandswitch contacts and solder connections. The VFO has switched outputs, and uses the same frequency range for 160 and 80 meters. If you have a scope, or r.f. probe on a VTVM, then make sure you've got VFO output on all bands.

Good luck and don't despair!

73,

Jim Garland W8ZR

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 14:10:27 +0200
From: "JOSE V.GAVILA (EB5AGV/EC5AAU)" <eb5agv@ctv.es>
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: Question: Collins 75S-3B
Message-ID: <3.0.1.32.19970918141027.006de4a4@192.168.0.1>

Hi gang!

I've just returned to my lovely winter QTH and to my shack, full of nice BA gear ;-)... Well, tonight I powered my S-line 75S-3B receiver and found that the CALibrator is barely noticeable at 28 MHz band (NO S-meter indication and low audio). Of course, as it works with harmonics of 100 KHz, I should expect more power at lower bands, but I think I should get a bit more of signal in 28 MHz... Is this normal?. Could this be due to bad alignment?. Where I should look first, at the CAL or at the RF circuit?. Any hint would be welcomed, as I'm sure I'm not the first one to find such a simple trouble.

By the way, I did this CAL test because I wanted to align the trimmers of the mechanical filters, and in the manual it says 28.6 MHz as the frequency at which align the trimmers.

Thanks and best regards.

----
73 JOSE V. GAVILA (EB5AGV / EC5AAU)
Ausias March 46, 15
46910 Benetusser - VALENCIA
SPAIN

***** PLEASE, VISIT MY HOME PAGE! *****

http://www.geocities.com/SiliconValley/6992/
e-mail: eb5agv@ctv.es & eb5agv@amsat.org

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 09:31:22 -0400 (EDT)
From: MNHopkins@aol.com

To: Boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Best BA RX is under the table
Message-ID: <970918093021_-1230751428@emout16.mail.aol.com>

Not long ago I posted an epistle critical of the Collins 390 series of RXs. There was a lot of feedback, all but one reasoned and thoughtful. One of the many posed a question I thought particularly apt: "If the R-390, the heir apparent, is not fit to rule, what is the best all time BA receiver?" I thought that over and e-mailed back privately because, I told him, my answer could lead to a lynching. I choose a rig you can find under a table for $40. The best all time BA receiver, the end of the line, is the Hammarlund HQ-170.

While we wait for some of the readers to get back from the bath, let me share the assumptions: The best receiver will have to be at the end of a long line of development because, by the time a manufacturer makes a thing for two decades, he should have it right. That principle holds true for National, Collins and Hammarlund at least, but is fuzzy applied to Hallicrafters which made them cheaper each time. Check the lineage of the HQ-170 back thru the SP-600 to the Comet Pro. I also assume that the great one is going to appear sometime around 1957, the year the KWM-1 and its progeny knocked separate receivers off the drawing board. What was the HQ-170s year of introduction? 1957.

I must speak, of course, of triple conversion. It is passe now, but then it was the best approach. It gave good image immunity by using 3.055 above 7MC, did the housework at 455 and droped down to 60KC for selectivity. The arrangement ment that you got all the radio without buying extra filters and such. Even if I choose a R-390A or a Drake R4C as king, there remains the fact that one without all the accessories is forever a cripple. The HQ-170 could rule in its own right, and deserves our feality over the pretender HQ-180, as that general coverage model was microphonic and, to be honest, triple conversion does not work unless the ranges are carefully picked. Liebnitz himself could not derive a spurless triple conversion receiver covering broadcast to 30MC.

So lets have an audience: Sit down in front of a properly setup '170, not its opening top brother the HQ-170A. (The '-VHF models are nice with the Nuvistor tuners for Six and Two, but an Ameco CN-XX from your junkbox is as good as the HQ's). Look over the big cast aluminum panel and the person-sized knobs. The decor? Black on gray -- you can watch it all day. Note the 3 KC+/- device the world would someday call RIT. Over here is the Q-multiplier for problems that cannot be solved by an honest 500KC passband achieved with tuned circuits at 60KC, and when you open it up you can hear AM thru 6KC of passband -- broadcast quality, old man. If it breaks, by the way, all 17 tubes are easy to find and the oscillator stays on all the time it is pluged in. There is a separate 6.3 volt transformer for its heater as Anomia, my Siamese cat, learned one cold night. She hated to see that one go. So did I, but I was looking for something. I just did not know it was in my own back room.

But what about sideband? How is is on SSB? Is it as good as a National NC-303 with the special product detector? Frankly, my dears, I don't give a damn. Asking how the greatest BA RX does on sideband is like asking Curt Cobain's favorite shotgun. It was SSB that killed all the BA RXs. Sideband, transceivers, appliance operators -- they all come in the same packet about the time the king was born, but he was still the king.

de ab5l, michael in dallas, collector of Tecraft, International Crystal and momentoes of 6M's Golden Age, 1957-58, who likes the gray NC-300 about as well as the RME-6900 but who calls the gold trimed NC-303 what it is when not in mixed company.
MNHopkins@AOL.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 09:11:03 -0500
From: bdhall@ghg.net (Benjamin D. Hall)
To: MNHopkins@aol.com, Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Best BA RX is under the table
Message-ID: <3.0.32.19970918091001.00702954@mailman.ghgcorp.com>

>One of
>the many posed a question I thought particularly apt: "If the R-390, the heir
>apparent, is not fit to rule, what is the best all time BA receiver?"

Honestly, I don't think there is a single, best BA receiver. For instance, I'll compare three of my favorites:

The R-390 series is likely the engineering zenith of tube type radios, but they don't band-scan very well, unless you have some serious wrist muscles. Great for parking on a signel freq in high QRM/N environments. Lack luster audio.
The HQ-150 has many goodies, like a nice q-multiplier and crystal filter combo that works wonderfully, but it is only single conversion. A wonderful band scanner with nice audio.
The SP-600 series is a nice bandscanner, with nice audio, but no bandspread so tuning it is a sometimes a hair splitting experiance.
I've never owned an HQ-170, but from the number of posts on BA about problems with them, I'd guess they aren't as reliable as some BA gear.

To be honest, I'm glad there isn't one best BA radio - this way I can make a case to my girlfriend for owning more than one! ;)

73,

Ben

Benjamin D. Hall, KD5BYB (yes, the FCC finally issued my call!)
Engine and radio collector / operator extraordinaire.
Located in Houston, Texas, United States of America.
e-mail: BDHall@ghg.net web: http://www.ghgcorp.com/bdhall

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 07:22:16 -0700 (PDT)
From: Randy Zelick <h2rz@odin.cc.pdx.edu>
To: MNHopkins@aol.com
Cc: Old Tube Radios <boatanchors@theporch.com>
Subject: Re: Best BA RX is under the table
Message-ID: <Pine.PTX.3.91.970918070427.9976H-100000@odin.cc.pdx.edu>

OK I'll bite on this one...

While it's true that the best radio from a manufacturer is often the last in a long lineage, this is certainly not necessarily so. The very receiver used for this comparison is a case in point. The R-390 was a design born from a government contract specification, albeit using the collective expertise of a radio design group with much experience and a penchant for innovation. It was not the end of a long line of R-301, 302, 303, ...390, however.

Consider too the RBB/RBC receivers designed by RCA in the same way, as a cost-is-no-object military contract. These receivers were designed from the ground up with no direct predecessor and are, in my opinion, one of the best BA receiver designs ever. They are totally reliable, stable, selective, with excellent audio and a precise and accurate (for its day) direct frequency readout.

I would maintain that engineered devices get better with subsequent revisions only sometimes. For example, if a mediocre design (perhaps due to initial cost-cutting) is popular, but there is market competition, then the manufacturer starts to fix things. This can go on for quite a while depending on demand and the health and interest of the manufacturer.

Cheers,

=Randy=

R. Zelick
Dept. Biology
Portland State University
P.O. Box 751
Portland, OR 97207

503-725-3086 (voice), 503-725-3888 (fax)
email: h2rz@odin.cc.pdx.edu
web: http://odin.cc.pdx.edu/~h2rz/

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 09:25:01 -0500 (CDT)
From: Bob Roehrig <broehrig@admin.aurora.edu>
To: Boatanchors <boatanchors@sco.theporch.com>
Subject: GC-1 info needed
Message-ID: <Pine.ULT.3.96.970918092416.29087A-100000@admin.aurora.edu>

Anyone have a manual for a Central Electronics GC-1?

E-mail broehrig@admin.aurora.edu 73 de Bob, K9EUI
CIS: Data / Telecom Aurora University, Aurora, IL
630-844-4898 Fax 630-844-5530

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 10:15:17 -0500
From: bill@skeeter.frco.com (William Hawkins)
To: boatanchors@theporch.com, laffitte@prtc.net
Subject: Re: 866 rectifiers/ R390
Message-ID: <9709181515.AA16305@skeeter.bvc.frco.com>

On the R390, there has been some discussion in the past about the ability of mica caps to generate noise when voltage is applied. Mica's are pretty reliable, but when metal crystals grow into or around the mica, they make fine point discharge noise sources.

Anybody ever try using a second receiver to find a bad mica? Stages after it would be louder, stages before it would be quiet.

Regards,
Bill Hawkins

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 11:28:55 -0400 (EDT)
From: Dave Wood <W4EJ@coastalnet.com>
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: HQ-170
Message-ID: <199709181528.LAA04275@abaco.coastalnet.com>

Hey gang, well now that we are on the subject of HQ-170's, I need a favor from the Hammarlund gang. I need someone(s) to set their receiver to 20 meters, ssb/cw mode, 1KHZ filter selection, slot filter out, agc off, rf gain max, af gain max, both sidebands selected and antenna shorted. Under these conditions, measure the audio output voltage across a 3.2 or 8 ohm speaker and tell me what audio power you get.
In other words, I need to get an idea of the idle noise of the receiver at max gain. I'm troubleshooting a noisy rx front end and this measurement would be most helpful.

FWIW= I have never owned a receiver that had a more effective notch filter system than a HQ-170. At least not in any sand state radio I've ever used.

73 and thanks Dave

Date: Tue, 16 Sep 1997 06:49:32 -0400
From: polepeeg@aa4rm.radio.org (Marty Reynolds' BA ID)
To: 103360.2133@compuserve.com
Cc: Boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Re: RAS-5 / HRO 4 Navy SWL-ing
Message-ID: <199709161049.GAA19720@aa4rm>

Nice art'l Tom - I sure enjoyed reading it. The 5000 drowned Soviet RAS's was a surprise

And I CAN TELL why the 175 kc IF. Navy wanted the thing to tune w/o an IF pass-thru from the 190 kc beacon band to some arbitrary ceiling...
and since HROs stopped @ 30 mcs why shouldn't this?

That's my guess

And I've a complete set / all coils / coil rack / PS / whole magilla -
and feel lucky. She'll run again in the CX 10 days out with a Knight T50.
The shame of it all.

Marty

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 97 13:38:22 EDT
From: w2ec@vnet.IBM.COM
To: boatanchors@sco.theporch.com
Subject: Xtals wanted
Message-ID: <199709181743.MAA23408@sco.theporch.com>

Need three crystals, 3530kc, 3560kc and 7060kc.

Would also accept up to 5kc variation from these frequencies, anything in the range of 3525kc to 3535kc, 3555kc to 3565kc and 7055kc to 7065kc.

73, Ray W2EC   w2ec@vnet.ibm.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 13:51:47 -0400 (EDT)
From: W0AH@aol.com
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Subject: Heathkit part needed- Help!
Message-ID: <970918134905_1585677381@emout07.mail.aol.com>

Past abuse has destroyed the 160M contacts on the SW2A, SW2B Rotary Switch wafer, Heathkit part 63-1426 for the SB-1000. Does anyone supply Heath parts or does anyone know the manufacturer of the rotary switch wafer? If I drill a hole I can use a second wafer swith to do the switching, but I surely don't want to do that!
Doug W0AH Colorado

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 13:58:54 -0400 (EDT)
From: Jderm740@aol.com
To: boatanchors@theporch.com
Cc: 4cx250b@miavx1.acs.muohio.edu
Subject: Re: BOATANCHORS digest 1677
Message-ID: <970918135715_-1901121931@emout13.mail.aol.com>

Jim

I have three of these 180s and I'm not thrilled with the sound from any of them but I haven't done any testing to see why. It may be the speakers. Let me check them with hi-fi head phones and if they still sound poor them it's time to dig in.
I'll let you know.

Jack   Jderm740@aol.com

Date: Thu, 18 Sep 97 14:26:37 EDT
From: jkh@lexis-nexis.com (John Heck)
To: boatanchors@theporch.com

Subject: Homemade Enclosures
Message-ID: <9709181826.AA14587@beans.lexis-nexis.com>

Folks,

I have had good luck fabricating enclosures by using the following technique. I find that my local Lowes hardware store has a bin with a large selection of aluminum extruded shapes. There I find a nice aluminum angle with sides about 2". It comes in 4, 6, and 8 foot lengths. I buy a 4 footer and measure off my four sides for the chassis. I then cut a 45 degree "V" in one side at each corner which allows me to bend the angle into a square. I then make up a flat piece of aluminum stock, using whatever is handy(right now it's old highway signs I picked up at a flea market), and drill the top and sides for bolts. This makes a neat chassis which is easy to put together. If you sandwich a piece of aluminum sheet between two sheets of tempered masonite you can do a neat job of cutting it on your table saw using a carbide blade. It won't damage the blade, either. If you find that the 2" angle on the top of the chassis provides too much thickness, or an unhandy offset, for drilling for tube sockets or other components, you can run the angle through the table saw(before bending, of course) and cut it back to about 1/2" for mounting to the flat top.

This system has worked well for me. The bolts used to attach the top also make good ground points and places to attach terminal strips.

Regards,
John Heck, KC8ETS
1009 Donson Drive
Dayton, Ohio 45429
(937)865-7036(work)
jkh@lexis-nexis.com

End of BOATANCHORS Digest 1680
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